

REMARKS

The Office action of August 10, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully noted.

Applicants appreciate the courtesy extended by the Examiner during a telephone conference on August 2, 2004. During the conference, Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed the allowability of the claims. The Examiner sent out a suggested Examiner's amendment to amend the claims to obtain allowance of the application. Representative agreed to consider the suggested amendment.

Claims 1-7, 9-10, and 12-23 are pending in the application. Claims 5, 12, and 16 have been deemed allowable. Claims 1, 3, 7, 9-10, 13-16, and 20-23 have been amended. Claims 8 and 11 have been canceled. The rejection of claims 1-4, 6-7, 8-10, 13-15, and 17-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is noted. While not agreeing with the rejection, the above-mentioned claims noted in the Action have been amended and/or canceled for clarity in accordance with the above-mentioned, suggested Examiner's Amendment to make all remaining claims allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks submitted above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the remaining claims are allowable and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.


Application No. 09/593,522

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 to discuss the application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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by  4/10/05
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